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### § 303.1 Purpose and scope.

The purpose of EDA Planning Investments is to provide support to Planning Organizations for the development, implementation, revision or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), related to short-term Planning Investments and State plans designed to create and retain higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the nation's most economically distressed Regions. EDA's Planning Investments support partnerships with Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, community development corporations, non-profit regional planning organizations and other Eligible Recipients. Planning activities supported by these Investments must be part of a continuous process involving the active participation of Private Sector Representatives, public officials and private citizens, and include:

- (a) Analyzing local economies;
- (b) Defining economic development goals;
- (c) Determining Project opportunities; and
- (d) Formulating and implementing an economic development program that includes systematic efforts to reduce unemployment and increase incomes.

### § 303.2 Definitions.

In addition to the defined terms set forth in § 300.3 of this chapter, the following terms used in this part shall have the following meanings:

*Planning Investment* means the award of EDA Investment Assistance under Section 203 of PWEDA and this part.

*Planning Organization* means a Recipient whose purpose is to develop a CEDS for a specific EDA-approved Region under Section 203 of PWEDA.

*Strategy Committee* means the committee or other entity identified by the Planning Organization as responsible for the development, implementation, revision or replacement of the CEDS for the Planning Organization.

### § 303.3 Application requirements.

(a) For Planning Investment awards, EDA uses the general application evaluation criteria set forth in § 301.8 of this chapter. In addition, EDA evaluates Planning Investment applications based on the following criteria:

(1) Quality of the proposed scope of work for the development, implementation, revision or replacement of the CEDS, or the relation of the CEDS to the proposed short-term planning activities or the State plan;

(2) Qualifications of the Eligible Applicant to implement the goals and objectives resulting from the CEDS, short-term planning activities or the State plan;

(3) The involvement of the Region's business leadership at each stage of the preparation of the CEDS, short-term planning activities or State plan;

(4) Extent of broad-based representation and involvement of the Region's civic, business, labor, minority and other interests in the Eligible Applicant's economic development activities; and

(5) Feasibility of the proposed scope of work to create and retain higher-skill, higher-wage jobs during implementation of the CEDS.

(b) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, funded Recipients are evaluated on the basis of the extent of continuing economic distress within the Region, their past performance, and the overall effectiveness of their CEDS.

(c) For Planning Investment awards to a State, the Assistant Secretary shall also consider the extent to which the State will integrate and coordinate its CEDS with local and Economic Development District plans.

(d) The Investment Rate for Planning Investments will be determined in accordance with § 301.4 of this chapter.

### § 303.4 Award requirements.

(a) Planning Investments shall function in conjunction with any other available federal, State or local planning assistance to ensure adequate and effective planning and economical use of funds.